

driver who stopped to check on a jeep parked on the side of the road. The driver of the jeep ditched a meth lab beside the road and drove off. Upon inspection, the patrol operator found that the meth lab was still smoking and informed law enforcement officials of the license number and car description.

Deputy State Highway Engineer Chuck Knowles, who oversees the Office of System Preservation and Operations, is really proud of the service. Knowles explained, "We are providing a higher level of service for the motoring public and better managing our roads." He believes that being able to serve people and keep roads open are both important and with this project both goals are being accomplished.

Statistics are monitored monthly, since October 5, 2004 the KY SAFE Patrol has made more than 8,500 service stops.

In addition to keeping our highways safe, the Transportation Cabinet is keeping its employees safe while they are working on our roadways. Today, the cabinet unveiled the newest thing in safety apparel — retro-reflective safety gear. One of the greatest hazards to highway construction workers is that they blend in to their surroundings and are not visible to motorists. These high visibility shirts, vests, jackets, and head wear provide 360-

degree visibility of workers and are in greater contrasting lime-yellow colors to differentiate workers from other signage and barriers in work zones.

Nighbert said, "The Transportation Cabinet is committed to continual improvement in employee safety programs and holds the health and well-being of its employees as an organizational value."



Workers wear new high-visibility vests.

\$26.1 MILLION BYPASS IN SHELBYVILLE NOW AT THE STARTING LINE

Even though the rain was coming down outside on a spring day in May, Governor Ernie Fletcher, Transportation Cabinet officials and Shelby County community leaders were still excited to conduct an indoor groundbreaking ceremony for a northern bypass around the city of Shelbyville. A group of approximately 100 people gathered at the Stratton Community Center in downtown Shelbyville for the official start of this long-awaited project.

This \$26.1 million project extends north from the intersection of US 60W and KY 55, crosses KY 53 near Shelby County West Middle School and reconnects with KY 55 just south of Bellvue Road. The entire length of the new route is 4.5 miles.



L to R: Barry Sanders, District 5 Chief District Engineer; Marc Williams, Commissioner of Highways; State Representative Brad Montell, R-58; State Senator Gary Tapp, R-20; Tom Hardesty, Mayor of Shelbyville; Governor Ernie Fletcher; Rob Rothenburger, Shelby County Judge-Executive; Jayme Brewster, Whitney M. Young Jobs Corp Center; Germaine Taylor, Whitney M. Young Jobs Corp Center; Bill Nighbert, Secretary of the Transportation Cabinet